



**Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**  
**2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE, 670 East Tower**  
**Atlanta, GA 30334**

Phone: (404) 657-5562 WWW.DECAL.GA.GOV

**Date:** 1/27/2026 **VisitType:** Monitoring Visit

**Arrival:** 1:00 PM **Departure:** 2:25 PM

**FR-22483**

**Browne-Joseph, Sharon L**

40 Sunflower Lane Covington, GA 30016 Newton County  
(770) 342-9729

Regional Consultant

Cassandra Jakes-Beasley

Phone: (770) 357-7016

Fax: (770) 357-7015

cassandra.jakes-beasley@dec.al.ga.gov

**Mailing Address**

Same

**Quality Rated:** No

| <u>Compliance Zone Designation</u> |                  |               | <b>Compliance Zone Designation</b> - A summary measure of a program's 12 month monitoring history, as it pertains to child care health and safety rules. The three compliance zones are good standing, support, and deficient.<br><br><b>Good Standing</b> - Program is demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules.<br><b>Support</b> - Program performance is demonstrating a need for improvement in meeting rules.<br><b>Deficient</b> - Program is not demonstrating an acceptable level of performance in meeting the rules. |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/27/2026                         | Monitoring Visit | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/30/2025                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 08/20/2024                         | Licensing Study  | Good Standing |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                    |                  |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Ratio Capacity                                            |                  |               |      |             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------|-------------|-------------------|
| Age Ranges                                                | Children Present | Child For Pay | CAPS | Not for Pay | Provider Children |
| Infant (0-11 mos)                                         | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 1 & 2 Years                                               | 0                | 5             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| 3 & 4 Years                                               | 0                | 1             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| School Age(5+) Years                                      | 0                | 0             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 13 Years                                      | 0                | 6             | 0    | 0           | 0                 |
| Total Under 18 Years                                      | 0                |               |      |             |                   |
| Children Present: 0 Total Children: 6                     |                  |               |      |             |                   |
| Caregivers/Helpers Present: 1 Total Caregivers/Helpers: 1 |                  |               |      |             |                   |

**Comments**

Background checks were reviewed. The Provider was reminded that their CBC expires on March 4, 2026.

Plan of Improvement: Developed This Date

Any rule violation which subjects a child to injury or life-threatening situation or any rule violations previously cited but not corrected, may result in the imposition of an adverse enforcement action. Serious or continued noncompliance may also jeopardize participation in one or more DECAL program(s).

Please refer to the website, <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CCS/RulesAndRegulations.aspx> , for information regarding October 1, 2018 rule changes about Criminal Records Checks that may affect your facility. In summary,

- New records checks will be required to be completed if a staff member experiences a six month break in service from the child care industry
- New clearance is required at least once every five years
- Any staff member solely responsible for supervising children will be required to have completed a comprehensive background clearance
- All staff members are required to have completed at least a national fingerprint based clearance check
- Any staff member with only the national fingerprint based clearance, must be under constant and direct supervision of a staff member with a satisfactory comprehensive records check clearance
- Facilities are required to use DECAL KOALA for Criminal Records Checks, including to verify portability of an employee

O.C.G.A. Section 42.1.12(i)(2) requires Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to notify licensed child care programs on accessing and retrieving from the Georgia Bureau of Investigation's (GBI) website a list of the names and addresses of all registered sexual offenders. Please see GBI's website located at <http://gbi.georgia.gov> to access the Georgia Sex Offender Registry.

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#### Refutation Process:

You have the right to refute any of the citations noted in this report with which you disagree. To refute a citation(s), do the following:

- 1) Log into DECAL KOALA [www.decalkoala.com](http://www.decalkoala.com) with the user id for your program
- 2) On the home page scroll down to the Inspection Reports and select 'Refute Citation' for the visit report in dispute
- 3) Select the specific rule number(s) that you are refuting, add the reason for disagreement regarding the rule citation, and upload supporting documentation
- 4) Submit the refutation in DECAL KOALA to Child Care Services (CCS) within 10 business days of the completion date.

Your refutation will be forwarded to the appropriate CCS manager, who will follow up with you about your concerns. If you have any questions about this process, contact our office at 404-657-5562.

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Bright from the Start recommends that all licensed child care providers carry liability insurance coverage sufficient to protect its clients. If you do not have this liability insurance, you are required to post a notice with ½ inch letters in a conspicuous location in the program, notify the parent or guardian of each child in care in writing, obtain their signature to acknowledge receipt and maintain this written acknowledgment on file at the program at all times while the child attends the program and for 12 months after the child's last date of attendance. (O.C.G.A. Section 20-1A-4)

#### Important Quality Rated/CAPS Update:

As January 1, 2022, child care providers must be Quality Rated to receive Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS). Newly licensed, or new to CAPS providers may be eligible for the new CAPS/QR Provisional Status, allowing for scholarships while working toward a star rating.

**Contact the Quality Rated help desk at 855-800-7747 or [qualityrated@decal.ga.gov](mailto:qualityrated@decal.ga.gov) for more information. Free technical assistance is available!**



## Summary Report

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### Mailing Address

Same

The following information is associated with a Monitoring Visit:

### Activities and Equipment

**290-2-3-.12 Equipment and Supplies(CR)**

Met

### Comment

Discussed the set up of the child care area, when the Provider resume caring for children.

**290-2-3-.19 Infant-Sleeping Safety Requirements(CR)**

Defer

### Defer

290-2-3-.19(1)(a)3-This rule was not evaluated. There are no children currently enrolled.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will remove sheets from equipment or obtain other equipment approved for infant sleep with a tight-fitting sheet that is changed daily or more often as needed and prior to a change of occupant.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**

**290-2-3-.07 Swimming Pools & Water-related Activities(CR)**

Met

### Comment

Home does not provide swimming activities.

### Children's Records

**290-2-3-.08 Children's Records**

Defer

### Defer

290-2-3-.08(1)-This rule was not evaluated. There are no children currently enrolled.

### POI (Plan of Improvement)

The Home Provider will obtain the missing information and maintain the Children's records as required.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**

### Comment

No children currently enrolled.

### Comment

290-2-3-.08(8)(b) -Discussed updating the Home's policies and procedures to include the program's practices regarding the expulsion and suspension of children enrolled for care within the description to cope with a crying, fussing, or distraught child; strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age; and a list of prohibited behaviors when dealing with children.

**Correction Deadline: 1/27/2026**

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**290-2-3-.08 Parental Authorization(CR)**

**Defer**

**Defer**

290-2-3-.08(3)-This rule was not evaluated. There are no children currently enrolled.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will have authorization for emergency medical care completed by the Parent for Children enrolled.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**

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**Facility**

**290-2-3-.11 Physical Plant - Safe Environment(CR)**

**Not Met**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.11(2)(b) requires the Home to have an operable and readily available telephone in the Home with the following telephone numbers posted in a conspicuous place next to the telephone: a physician or hospital, an ambulance or rescue squad service, the local fire department, the local police department, the county health department and the regional poison control center. In those areas of the state serviced by the 911 emergency number, 911 may be posted in lieu of the phone numbers required for ambulance, fire and police. It was determined that the emergency numbers were not posted in a conspicuous place.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home Provider will install an operable telephone and will post a complete listing of the required emergency numbers.

**Correction Deadline: 2/7/2026**

**Recited on 1/27/2026**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.11(2)(c) requires that documentation of drills required by these rules shall be maintained in the Home. The Home shall conduct drills for fire, tornado, and other emergency situations. The fire drills will be conducted monthly and tornado and other emergency situation drills will be conducted every six months. The Home shall maintain documentation of the dates and times of these drills for two years. It was determined based on observation the Home did not have documentation of the required drills, for fire, tornado and other emergencies for the 2025 calendar year.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Provider will develop and implement a plan and schedule for conducting the required drills, completing the documentation, keeping the documentation on file for two years.

**Correction Deadline: 2/6/2026**

**Recited on 1/27/2026**

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**290-2-3-.13 Physical Plant-Structural/Mechanical(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

The Home appeared clean and free from hazards.

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**290-2-3-.13 Playgrounds(CR)**

**Met**

**Correction Deadline: 8/9/2025**

**Corrected on 1/27/2026**

.13(2)(a) - Previous citation corrected in that based on observation fencing material was installed around the air conditioner unit and the hot tub.

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**Food Service**

**290-2-3-.10 Food Service & Nutrition**

**Defer**

**Defer**

290-2-3-.10(3)-This rule was not evaluated. No children presently enrolled.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will develop and implement a plan to obtain and post the completed feeding plan as part of the enrollment process and to have parents update the plans on a regular basis.

**Correction Deadline: 7/30/2025**

**Health and Hygiene****290-2-3-.11 Children's Health and Hygiene(CR)****Met****Comment**

There were no children enrolled on this date. Proper hand washing of children and staff were discussed with the provider on this date.

**290-2-3-.11 Diapering Areas & Practices(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff stated proper knowledge of diapering procedures.

**290-2-3-.11 Medications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Per the provider no medication is currently dispensed

**Licensure****290-2-3-.04 Application Requirements(CR)****Met****Comment**

Application requirements reviewed with the Provider on this date.

**Safety and Discipline****290-2-3-.11 Discipline(CR)****Met****Comment**

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

**290-2-3-.11 Transportation(CR)****Met****Comment**

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

**Staff Records****290-2-3-.21 Criminal Records and Comprehensive Background Checks(CR)****Met****Comment**

Criminal records checks were observed to be complete.

**290-2-3-.07 Staff Qualifications(CR)****Met****Comment**

Staff observed to be compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

**290-2-3-.07 Staff Training****Not Met****Finding**

290-2-3-.07(9)(a) requires that every calendar year, after the first year of employment the Provider, Provisional Employees or and Employees, shall attend ten (10) clock hours of diverse training which is offered by an accredited college, university or vocational program or other Department-approved source. It was determined based on review the Provider did not have ten (10) clock hours of diverse training for the 2025 calendar year.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Home will obtain the required annual training for Staff and will keep certificates, cards, or other proof of training on file or within the Georgia Professional Development System (GaPDS). The Home will submit proof of training to the Department, if requested.

**Correction Deadline: 12/31/2026**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)1 requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices. It was determined based on a review of records the provider did not have two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices during the 2025 calendar year.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Provider will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026**

**Finding**

290-2-3-.07(9)(b)2(i)-(iv) requires the annual ten (10) clock hours of training shall include at least two (t two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices, which could include, but not be limited to: (i) Child development (e.g., developmental domains (cognitive; social and emotional; physical development and motor skills; communication, language, and literacy; approaches to play and learning), discipline and guidance techniques, children with special needs); (ii) Health (e.g., nutrition and the support of breast feeding, physical activity, prevention and control of illnesses and infectious diseases, immunizations, prevention of and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, cleanliness, sanitation, and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants); (iii) Safety (e.g., prevention of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) which includes Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and the use of safe sleeping practices, medication administration, injury control and prevention, transportation, handling and storage of hazardous materials, identification of and protection from hazards that can cause bodily injury such as electrical hazards, bodies of water, and vehicular traffic, and emergency preparedness planning and response); (iv) Child abuse and neglect (e.g., identification and reporting, meeting the needs of abused and/or neglected children, prevention of shaken baby syndrome, abusive head trauma and child maltreatment). It was determined based on review the provider did not have two (2) hours in evidence based, developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices during the 2025 calendar year.

**POI (Plan of Improvement)**

The Provider will plan and schedule the required 10 hours of annual training each year to include a least two (2) hours of on-going child development and health and safety related topics and follow up to ensure the training is completed.

**Correction Deadline: 2/26/2026**

|                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Staff:Child Ratios and Supervision</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|

**290-2-3-.07 Staff:Child Ratios(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)

**290-2-3-.07 Supervision(CR)**

**Met**

**Comment**

Currently there are no children enrolled in the program. (This rule was not evaluated on this date)